

NSC BRIEFING

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REVIEWER: 372044 FRANCE-GUINEA

I. Relations between France and Guinea have steadily worsened since Guinea refused to enter the French Community--the new grouping of the semi-independent former colonies.

A. To demonstrate to other African members the disadvantages of such a course, the French quickly withdrew administrative and military personnel from Guinea and cut off economic aid.

1. The result has been a severe dislocation of the economy, with which Guinea's inexperienced leader Sekou Toure (Seh-koor Too-ray) has found it difficult to cope.
2. His problem has been complicated by the presence in Guinea of 10,000 unemployed soldiers abruptly demobilized from the French army.

B. Also, the French were slow to give Guinea diplomatic recognition, and opposed sending of ambassadors by the Western allies. Paris feels that any gesture of support for Guinea threatens the solidarity of the French Community.

II. Faced by French hostility, Toure has moved rapidly toward a neutralist line.

*We believe*

A. Toure is a Marxist Socialist but not a Communist. However, several Communist sympathizers are reported to hold influential positions in Guinea's single political party, which completely dominates the political life of the country.

B. Toure feels the West has rebuffed him to please France, while the Soviet bloc has offered aid "without strings."

1. Bloc countries quickly recognized Guinea, and both the USSR and Bulgaria already have ambassadors at Conakry (Ko-Nah-Kree)

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C. The bloc has also provided at least two gift shipments, which included textiles, machinery, and some old arms.

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III. The French claim these weapons are far in excess of Guinea's needs.

A. They suspect the arms are to be passed to dissidents in other French territories--Cameroun and the Mali Federation--where Toure has been giving African nationalists increasing propaganda support.



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